Cellular Phones Tapping

2150. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned "Listening post planned to tap cellular phones" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated Fabruary 8, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof, metro-city-wise;

(c) the number of cases noticed by the Government during 1996 and 1997 so far, metro-wise;

(d) whether it is a part of the agreement with private operators;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether it is against the Supreme Court verdict?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However, there is no system of tapping cellular telephones at present nor is there any proposal to do so in Delhi Police.

(d) and (e) The cellular service being provided by the companies who have been granted licences for the same, is governed by the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. As per the provision in Section 5 (2) of the Act, the licensee is required to provide necessary facilities to the designated authorities of Central/State Governments for interception of messages passing through his network.

Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 reads as under:

"On the occurrence of any public emergency or in the interest of public safety, the Central Govt. or a State Government or any officer specially authorised in their behalf by the Central Govt. or a State Govt. may, if satisfied that it is necessary or expedient to do so in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of an offense for reasons to be recorded by the order, direct that any message or class of messages to or from any person or class of persons or relating to any particular subject, brought for transmission by or transmitted or received by any telegraph, shall not be transmitted or shall be intercepted or detained or shall be disclosed to the Government making the order or an officer thereof mentioned on the order; provided that press messages intended to be published in India of correspondents accredited to the Central Government or a State Government shall not be intercepted or detained, unless their transmission has been prohibited under this sub-section."

(f) The Supreme Court in the matter of Writ Petition (Civil) No. 256 of 1991 vide its order dated 18.12.1996 has directed that while exercising powers under Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, in intercepting messages which include telephones/cellular telephones, certain procedural safeguards as enunciated by the Hon'ble Court shall be followed by the Government. While issuing any order for undertaking surveillance of telephones including cellular telephones under Section 5(2) of the said Act, the directions of the Supreme Court contained in its judgement dated 18.12.96 are kept in view and as such, it is not against the verdict of the Supreme Court.

Accidents in Industrial Establishments

2151. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents in industrial establishments of Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have issued instructions for providing adequate security and prevention of such accidents in future in these industrial establishments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Conversion of LPT into HPT

2152. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA:
SHRI SANAT MEHTA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Low Power Transmitters into High Power Transmitters in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(c) whether the construction work at new site selected for High Power Transmitter, Dwarka in Gujarat has since been started;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(f) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The existing Low Power TV transmitters (LPTs) at Bhavnagar, Surat, Vadodara and Junagarh in Gujarat are envisaged to be replaced by High Power TV transmitters (HPTs) subject to availability of reasources and other infrastructural facilities.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.